

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 10 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1 – 4 are amended, while claims 5 – 10 are newly added for first consideration on the merits.

In the Outstanding Office Action, the Examiner:

- objected to the specification for informalities;
- rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,396,698 to Orthmann et al. (hereinafter “Orthmann”); and
- rejected claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orthmann in view of Japanese Patent Abstract 08166446 to Masaharu (hereinafter “Masaharu”).

By this amendment, claims 1 – 4 are amended; and claims 5 – 10 are newly added.

Claim 1 and its dependent claims are amended *inter alia* for the following reason. In original claim 1, the term “soft magnetic material” was used to mean that the magnetic body is made of a soft material. However, the term “soft magnetic” also has a technical meaning, namely, that magnetization is not left after an added magnetic field is removed. Applicants did not and do not intend for this technical meaning to be applied as a feature in the present claims. Therefore, claim 1 has been amended to recite “a flexible magnetic body made of soft material,” and the specification has been amended accordingly.

Support for the amended and added claims is found in the Specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the Specification. Applicants have amended the Specification to obviate the objection in the manners proposed by the Examiner. Therefore, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully solicited.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Orthmann, and rejects claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Orthmann in view of Masaharu. In view of the present amendments to claims 1 – 4, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Insofar as these rejections might provisionally be applied to new claims 5 – 10, such provisional rejections are traversed as well.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended, and now recites *inter alia* an antenna having a core which comprises a magnetic core and a wiring layer laminated on each other. “[T]he magnetic core comprises a flexible magnetic body made of soft material.” (Emphasis added)

Claims 2 – 5 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore if the cited art does not render obvious claim 1, it does not render obvious claims 2 – 5.

New independent claim 6 likewise recites *inter alia* “an antenna embedded within the hollow portion of [a] door handle,” where the antenna comprises *inter alia* “a flexible magnetic core consisting of a flexible magnetic body made of soft material.”

The magnetic body core in the present disclosure *consists of a magnetic body made of soft material*. The magnetic body core is therefore composed of a single part. In addition, since the magnetic body is made of soft material, bending is not limited to any discrete direction or directions. Furthermore, since the magnetic body is composed of a single part, management of parts and processes during assembly is simplified, and production costs are reduced.

Orthmann is directed to a flexible antenna having a magnetic core 16 and printed wiring 12a/12b. Figs. 1-7 illustrate various aspects of Orthmann's flexible antenna.

In contradistinction to the present disclosure, the flexibility of Orthmann's antenna is achieved by laminating magnetic body sheets. The sheets are connected via an adhesive layer 134. (See col. 6, lines 55-64, and Fig. 13) A single strip is used via a "foil." (See col. 7, lines 28-45). Thus, Orthmann's antenna does not have a core composed of a single part. In addition, since Orthmann's antenna is not made of soft material, bending is limited to discrete directions. Furthermore, since the magnetic body is composed of a multiple parts, management of parts and processes during assembly is disadvantageously complex, and production costs are increased.

Therefore, as Orthmann does not disclose, teach, or suggest all the features of independent claim 1 as amended, Orthmann does not render this claim obvious, nor claims 2 or 5 dependent therefrom.

Further, notwithstanding Orthmann's disclosure on antennas, there is no teaching or suggestion of at least the features of a door handle, an embedded antenna, or a request switch or a keyless entry component as recited in new claim 6.

Therefore, as Orthmann does not disclose, teach, or suggest all the features of new independent claim 6, Orthmann does not render this claim obvious, nor claims 7 – 10 dependent therefrom.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the Examiner concedes that Orthmann does not disclose, teach, or suggest a core provided with an extending portion which outwardly extends from a coiled section around which the insulative insulation covered conductor is wound, and an electronic component is mounted on the extending portion, or an electricity control section which permits and prohibits energization to energizing the wiring layer depending upon an operation state of the antenna. The Examiner cites Masaharu as curing the deficiencies of Orthmann.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Masaharu is directed to a transponder which made using a ferrite board and winding an antenna coil around the ferrite board. The transponder is encapsulated in a glass capsule and inserted into animals. However, Masaharu does not disclose any of the subject matter lacking in Orthmann, as discussed above. Thus, Masaharu does not cure the deficiency in Orthmann.

Therefore, Orthmann and Masaharu, individually or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1 or 6, and thus claims 2 – 5 and 7 – 10 dependent respectively therefrom.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

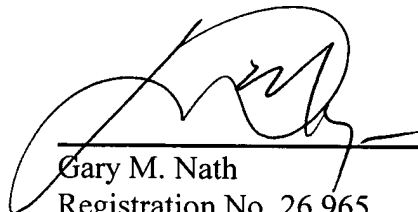
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.
If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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